

(1) *General rule.* A MAC ruling on a subpoena request is not subject to immediate review by the Secretary.

(2) Exception. (i) To the extent a subpoena compels disclosure of a matter for which an objection based on privilege, or other protection from disclosure such as case preparation, confidentiality, or undue burden, was made before the MAC, the Secretary may review immediately that subpoena or portion of the subpoena.

(ii) Upon notice to the MAC that a party or non-party, as applicable, intends to seek Secretary review of the subpoena, the MAC must stay all proceedings affected by the subpoena.

(iii) The MAC determines the length of the stay under the circumstances of a given case, but in no event is less than 15 days after the day on which the MAC received notice of the party or non-party's intent to seek Secretary review.

(iv) If the Secretary grants a request for review, the subpoena or portion of the subpoena, as applicable, is stayed until the Secretary issues a written decision that affirms, reverses, modifies, or remands the MAC's action for the subpoena.

(v) If the Secretary does not grant review or take own motion review within the time allotted for the stay, the stay is lifted and the MAC's action stands.

(f) *Enforcement.* (1) If the MAC determines, whether on its own motion or at the request of a party, that a party or non-party subject to a subpoena issued under this section has refused to comply with the subpoena, the MAC may request the Secretary to seek enforcement of the subpoena in accordance with section 205(c) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. 405(c).

(2) Any enforcement request by the MAC must consist of a written notice to the Secretary describing in detail the MAC's findings of noncompliance and its specific request for enforcement, and providing a copy of the subpoena and evidence of its receipt by certified mail by the party or nonparty subject to the subpoena.

(3) The MAC must promptly mail a copy of the notice and related documents to the party or non-party subject to the subpoena, and to any other

party and affected non-party to the appeal.

(4) If the Secretary does not grant review or take own motion review within the time allotted for the stay, the stay is lifted and the subpoena stands.

§ 405.1124 Oral argument.

A party may request to appear before the MAC to present oral argument.

(a) The MAC grants a request for oral argument if it decides that the case raises an important question of law, policy, or fact that cannot be readily decided based on written submissions alone.

(b) The MAC may decide on its own that oral argument is necessary to decide the issues in the case. If the MAC decides to hear oral argument, it tells the parties of the time and place of the oral argument at least 10 days before the scheduled date.

(c) In case of a previously unrepresented beneficiary, a newly hired representative may request an extension of time for preparation of the oral argument and the MAC must consider whether the extension is reasonable.

(d) The MAC may also request, but not require, CMS or its contractor to appear before it if the MAC determines that it may be helpful in resolving the issues in the case.

(e) The MAC will not draw any inference if CMS or a contractor decides not to participate in the oral argument.

§ 405.1126 Case remanded by the MAC.

(a) *When the MAC may remand a case.* Except as specified in § 405.1122(c), the MAC may remand a case in which additional evidence is needed or additional action by the ALJ is required. The MAC will designate in its remand order whether the ALJ will issue a final decision or a recommended decision on remand.

(b) *Action by ALJ on remand.* The ALJ will take any action that is ordered by the MAC and may take any additional action that is not inconsistent with the MAC's remand order.

(c) *Notice when case is returned with a recommended decision.* When the ALJ sends a case to the MAC with a recommended decision, a notice is mailed to the parties at their last known address. The notice tells them that the

case was sent to the MAC, explains the rules for filing briefs or other written statements with the MAC, and includes a copy of the recommended decision.

(d) *Filing briefs with the MAC when ALJ issues recommended decision.* (1) Any party to the recommended decision may file with the MAC briefs or other written statements about the facts and law relevant to the case within 20 days of the date on the recommended decision. Any party may ask the MAC for additional time to file briefs or statements. The MAC will extend this period, as appropriate, if the party shows that it has good cause for requesting the extension.

(2) All other rules for filing briefs with and obtaining evidence from the MAC follow the procedures explained in this subpart.

(e) *Procedures before the MAC.* (1) The MAC, after receiving a recommended decision, will conduct proceedings and issue its decision or dismissal according to the procedures explained in this subpart.

(2) If the MAC determines that more evidence is required, it may again remand the case to an ALJ for further inquiry into the issues, rehearing, receipt of evidence, and another decision or recommended decision. However, if the MAC decides that it can get the additional evidence more quickly, it will take appropriate action.

§ 405.1128 Action of the MAC.

(a) After it has reviewed all the evidence in the administrative record and any additional evidence received, subject to the limitations on MAC consideration of additional evidence in § 405.1122, the MAC will make a decision or remand the case to an ALJ.

(b) The MAC may adopt, modify, or reverse the ALJ hearing decision or recommended decision.

(c) The MAC mails a copy of its decision to all the parties at their last known addresses. For overpayment cases involving multiple beneficiaries where there is no beneficiary liability the MAC may choose to send written notice only to the appellant. In the event the decision will result in a payment to a provider or supplier, the Medicare contractor must issue any

electronic or paper remittance advice notice to that provider or supplier.

§ 405.1130 Effect of the MAC's decision.

The MAC's decision is binding on all parties unless a Federal district court issues a decision modifying the MAC's decision or the decision is revised as the result of a reopening in accordance with § 405.980. A party may file an action in a Federal district court within 60 days after the date it receives notice of the MAC's decision.

§ 405.1132 Request for escalation to Federal court.

(a) If the MAC does not issue a decision or dismissal or remand the case to an ALJ within the adjudication period specified in § 405.1100, or as extended as provided in this subpart, the appellant may request that the appeal, other than an appeal of an ALJ dismissal, be escalated to Federal district court. Upon receipt of a request for escalation, the MAC may—

(1) Issue a decision or dismissal or remand the case to an ALJ, if that action is issued within the latter of 5 calendar days of receipt of the request for escalation or 5 calendar days from the end of the applicable adjudication time period set forth in § 405.1100; or

(2) If the MAC is not able to issue a decision or dismissal or remand as set forth in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, it will send a notice to the appellant acknowledging receipt of the request for escalation and confirming that it is not able to issue a decision, dismissal or remand order within the statutory time frame.

(b) A party may file an action in a Federal district court within 60 days after the date it receives the MAC's notice that the MAC is not able to issue a final action or remand unless the party is appealing an ALJ dismissal.

§ 405.1134 Extension of time to file action in Federal district court.

(a) Any party to the MAC's decision or to a request for EAJR that has been certified by the review entity other than CMS may request that the time for filing an action in a Federal district court be extended.

(b) The request must—

(1) Be in writing.